

## Zimbabwe arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Zimbabwe cricket team will arrive in the capital today to take part in a tri-nation tournament and a one-day series this month.

The 15-man squad is expected to reach Dhaka by an Emirates flight at 10:00am.

The Africans will be involved in the three-nation meet with hosts Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before a three-match one-day series against the Tigers the following week. But first they will play a three-day practice match against the GP-BCB Academy side in Bogra from Tuesday.

They play the tri-series opener against Bangladesh on January 10.

Led by Prosper Utseya, the side boasts a few experienced

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## Did U Know?

Bangladesh cricket captain Mohammad Ashraful scored his fifth century in the first Test against Sri Lanka and became the second Bangladesh player to exceed 2,000 runs.



## Lassana Diarra

(Real Madrid midfielder) "I have known (Claude) Makelele for a while as I was with him at Chelsea and it is an honour to be compared with him. However, Makelele is Makelele and I am Lassana Diarra."



### BTV

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 Second Test, Day Two  
 Live from 9:30am

### STAR Sports

Primera Liga  
 Real Madrid v Villarreal  
 Live from 2:00am (Monday)

### STAR Cricket

Australia v South Africa  
 Third Test, Day Three  
 Live from 5:30am (Monday)



### Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Second Test, Day Two  
 Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium  
 Time: 9:30am

### National Cricket League

(One-day match)  
 Chittagong v Khulna  
 Venue: BKSP

### Barisal v Sylhet

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
 Rajshahi v Dhaka  
 Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

## Camps for SA Games begin

UNB, Dhaka

The long-term residential and non-residential training camps for most of the sporting disciplines of the 11th South Asian Games, under the supervision of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA),

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

SENDING SHOCKWAVES TO THE STANDS: Sri Lankan middle-order batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan is ecstatic after scoring a fantastic hundred on the opening day of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. His blistering knock of 162 took the match away from the firm grip of the Tigers, who at one stage reduced the Lankans to 74-4.

## Dilshan fires a warning

SPORTS REPORTER in Chittagong

Sri Lankan batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan issued a warning to the Tigers that their spin duo Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis would be dangerous on this pitch as the game progresses.

"I think it will turn for those two. The bounce could be a bit uneven later on and they (Bangladesh batsmen) haven't played Ajantha (Mendis) much. So I hope both bowlers will do well here," said Dilshan, who rescued his side from the initial hiccup with his sixth Test hundred on the first day of the second Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium here yesterday.

The right-hander, who smashed the home team bowlers during his 162-run knock that contained 21 fours and two sixes, also said that the unevenness of the pitch will also help pacerman Dilhara Fernando, who replaced Dammika Prasad in the second Test, when Sri Lanka field. "Dilhara is quick and can be difficult to face because the pitch could be an up

and down one," he added.

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Enamul Haque also echoed his sentiment and said that it would be a good Test match only if their batsmen could successfully negotiate the two spin demons.

"The pitch will be conducive to spinners as there are cracks developing already. But I expect the wicket to play well on Day Two also and then start deteriorating. It is important for us to get the remaining wickets early and then make best use of the batting conditions. If we can have them batting in the second innings then there will be a lot of assistance for spinners," said Enamul, who returned to the field for Tigers after almost a year.

Dilshan however admitted that the first day wicket was good for batting and he was happy that he could contribute when his side was struggling.

"The wicket is very good on the first day. It is a good Test wicket but maybe a bit on the slower side. It was an opportunity for someone to put a

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## Honours even at SCG

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

South Africa made a confident start to the third and final Test in Sydney on Saturday as they look to replace Australia as the leading Test-playing nation.

Dale Steyn took the crucial late wicket of Brad Haddin (38) to end a 75-run partnership with Michael Clarke.

Vice-captain Clarke was 73 not out at the close at Sydney Cricket Ground, having been dropped twice, as Australia reached 267 for 6.

South Africa lead the series 2-0 and are hoping to inflict Australia's first home white-wash in 122 years.

They fielded an unchanged side while Australia gave debuts to all-rounder Andrew McDonald and pace bowler Doug Bollinger, the latter given his first chance on his home ground.

But the focus was on opener Matthew Hayden at the start of play after home skipper Ricky Ponting won the toss and chose to bat.

Hayden has been in a wretched run of form and, prior to the squad being announced, there were calls in the Australian media for the 37-year-old to be dropped.

He reined in his attacking instincts and was outscored by partner Simon Katich as they put on 62 for the first wicket.

But Australia then suffered a double blow as Katich was caught at second slip off Jacques Kallis and Ponting departed first ball in the next over as Morne Morkel found the inside edge of his bat and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher did the rest.

Hayden's watchful innings came to an end after lunch when he attempted to drive a wide ball from fast bowler Dale Steyn and only succeeded in dragging the ball into his stumps.

His exit for 31 left Australia on 109-3 and put the onus on Michael Hussey, who has also been short of runs in recent

matches, and Clarke to rebuild the innings.

The spin of Paul Harris accounted for Hussey, however, when he pushed forward defensively and was caught at slip by Kallis for 30.

New boy McDonald was greeted by a rising delivery from Morkel which struck him on the body, edged just short of the slip cordon two balls later and shortly afterwards had his helmet knocked off by a bouncer from the tall pacerman.

Clarke, meanwhile, had his first escape on 12 when Makhaya Ntini put down a difficult chance as he moved to his right at mid-off, with Harris the unlucky bowler.

But Ntini atoned with the

wicket of McDonald, who paid the price for poor foot movement as an attempted drive resulted in a catch to Boucher, leaving Australia on 162 for 5.

Clarke and Haddin gradually lifted the tension among home supporters -- with Clarke reaching his half-century off 15 balls and Haddin hitting a four and six off successive balls from Harris.

The pair were eventually separated when Steyn, armed with the second new ball, produced a near unplayable delivery which hit the top of Haddin's off stump.

But Clarke survived when Hashim Amla put down a

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PHOTO: FILE

Australia vice-captain Michael Clarke did his bat talk despite wickets fall at the other end on the opening day of the third Test against South Africa at Sydney yesterday. He scored an unbeaten 73.

## Fielding gaffes cost Tigers

BISHWAJIT ROY in Chittagong



If it was a pleasure to watch the batting of Tillakaratne Dilshan then it was pathetic the way the Bangladesh fielders missed the chances on the first day of the second and final Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

All credit must go to Dilshan after the way the right-hander brought back the smile on the faces of the Sri Lankans as his stroke-filled 162 helped his side end the day with an impressive 371 for six after recovering from a shaky 75 for four.

It was however not the total rather the way they missed some opportunities that disappointed Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful.

"It is really frustrating the way we dropped catches and missed stumping. It is part of the game but we should understand that for a team like us, it's really bad. It was not so easy for the bowlers to create chance in this kind of wicket, so you can understand the value of a wicket," said Ashraful.

"We had a brilliant start but in the end we were in the backseat. It could have been a different story if we had not dropped some catches. I don't want to blame anybody but we

should take catches at this level," he added.

Bangladesh put pressure on their mighty opponents after they were put into field first as the visitors were reduced to 75 for 4 thanks to Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who removed opener Prasanna Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara in his first two overs.

Dilshan snatched away the initiatives with the help of Malinda Warnapura (63) and Chamara Kapugedera, who remained not out on 93, his highest Test score.

But all the three batsmen had their lucks to take away their team away from trouble.

Who have the safest hands? Undoubtedly it's the wicketkeeper but Mushfiqur Rahim once again proved that he has a long way to go to be established as an international standard stumper.

The young Bogra lad started all the wrongdoings when he failed to hold the catch of Sri Lanka skipper Jayawardene off Shakib Al Hasan. It was not too costly as the Lankan captain was dismissed immediately for 11 runs but it was when he failed to gather the ball to make sure the stumping against Warnapura off the same bowler.

Later he missed another stumping chance against Dilshan when the right-hander was on 155.

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## Hasina with football

SPORTS REPORTER

Awami League (AL) president Sheikh Hasina has assured of her full support to the country's football, said Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin.

The legendary footballer on Friday went to her Dhanmondi residence to congratulate the AL chief on her party's landslide victory in the ninth Parliamentary Elections held on December 29.

"What she told me is that she will get me all sorts of help for the country's football," said Salahuddin yesterday.

"She has also asked me to take football to a new level," added the country's first football superstar.

Salahuddin had earlier promised to meet Hasina to seek her assistance in building the country's footballing future.

## Morning didn't show the day

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong



The hundreds of viewers who had thronged the Chittagong Divisional Stadium full of spirit and confidence had to head back home with a broken heart after witnessing a pile of runs from the Sri Lanka batsmen.

The number of supporters was remarkable compared to other Test matches in Chittagong especially since the regular feature of school-children having free entrance was retained.

No official figure could be confirmed by the BCB, but the turnout was significantly more than usual during Test matches.

Beside this, over one hundred supporters of Sri Lanka, mostly students of a private university in Chittagong, inspired their homeboys

throughout the day from the Club House gallery chanting "Go Go Sri Lanka."

The dramatic fall of two wickets of the Sri Lankans at the beginning charmed the viewers into thinking that the same would hold true for the rest of the day.

But most were left disappointed as Dilshan carved out a superb 162 runs off 165 balls featuring 21 boundaries and two sixes, with ample support from Kapugedera's unbeaten 93 runs off 117 balls featuring 12 boundaries and one six.

Mashrafe's strike off the fourth ball of the first over and fourth ball of the third over helped the viewers to keep hope in mind to fight with the Sri Lankans while another joy had come from Shakib after he sent the visiting skipper Jayawardene (11 runs) back to the pavilion with the team score on 39 runs in 17.3 overs.

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (R) and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim celebrate the fall of Sri Lanka batsman Malinda Warnapura (unseen) on the opening day of the second and final Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

## BFF honours '71 heroes today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will hold a reception today to honour the Swadheen Bangla Football Dal.

All thirty-six members of the team that played exhibition matches in India in 1971 to create public opinion for the country's Liberation War will be paid tribute after it was announced last month by the football federation.

In a press conference, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin said with a mixture of joy and sadness that it had to be him at the helm to organise such an occasion.

"It is a very happy day for me because I am organising this as the BFF head. Another source of happiness for me is that I am able to talk of those days with you," said the country's football great who revealed a sense of embarrassment that it actually took long 37 years to honour those footballers.

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## Brothers now second

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



Two goals from striker Henry Quae fired Brothers Union into second position of the Citycell B League after a 2-1 win over Chittagong Abahani at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The victory took Brothers to 25 points from 12 matches, a single point behind defending champions and league leaders Abahani. But they remain above Sheikh Russel, who also had a successful twelfth round tie with a 3-1 win over Khulna Abahani. Russel have 24 points from the same number of games.

In Chittagong, The Ghanaian forward struck as early as the second minute of the match. His short-distance strike put Brothers ahead and it could have been doubled if the Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Mostofa did not clear Henry's feeble-footed shot in the next minute.

But the 1-0 lead was cancelled out in the 23rd minute when local boy Mithun made it 1-1. The striker's fourth goal of the campaign was brought about when he intelligently placed a through-ball from Jahed into the visitors' net.

It was the result of Abahani's continuous attack in the first half after Rony found a gap in the eighth minute but the defiant Brothers defence line frustrated him. Kashem's attempt in the following minute was also brilliantly thwarted away by Brothers keeper Zia for a corner.

But the Gopibagh outfit regained the lead

three minutes from the breather when Henry struck his second goal, his fifth of the season. His perfect header found its destination off a corner taken by Liton.

Abahani tried in vain a few more times in the second half to salvage a draw but they were most unfortunate for at least one occasion in the 50th minute when Mithun's header from a Monjurul corner hit the crossbar.

The score remained 2-1 till the end as Chittagong Abahani remained in ninth place with 13 points.

The situation was the same with another home side Khulna Abahani who were trounced 3-1 by Sheikh Russel at the Khulna Stadium.

After a barren first-half, veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed scored from the penalty spot in the 64th minute. Monwar Hossain doubled the margin three minutes later before Khulna boy Rezaul Karim reduced the margin in the 81st minute.

Bulbul sealed the fate of Khulna Abahani as his 84th minute strike made it 3-1 to keep the home side rooted to last position with just three points.

Motijheel giants Mohammedan will play struggling Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

### TEAMS

**BROTHERS:** Zia, Arif, Shuvra, Mishu, Zahid (Rohi), Shakil, Rikto, Munna, Liton (Akramuzzaman), Monju (Parvez) and Henry.  
**CHITTAGONG ABAHANI:** Mostafa, Nazir, Kashem, Sohel (Rashedul), Jahangir, Asif, Monjurul, Othello, Jahed, Rony (Dalim) and Mithun.